

1 THE PRESIDENT: The Sergeant at Arms will clear
2 the aisles and close the doors.

3 The Convention will please come to order.

4 The invocation today will be offered by the
5 Reverend Robert L. Kessler, of St. Mary's Catholic Church,
6 Laurel, Maryland. Father Kessler.

7 REVEREND KESSLER: Let us pray: Our gracious
8 Father in heaven, we pray for skill in the art of states-
9 manship that we may rise to our full stature as faithful
10 sons and daughters of Maryland. Give us courage -- courage
11 to think clearly about the meaning of life, even though
12 that understanding means bidding farewell to cherished
13 illusions; courage to blaze new ideas, even though their
14 acceptance shatters the pleasant little world of make-believe
15 courage to love what is right rather than what is expedient,
16 even though that love means sacrifice and service and
17 ceaseless longing; courage to fight evil, even though bat-
18 tle means wounds and weariness and heartache.

19 Heavenly Father, we pray for the prosperity of our
20 State. Give wisdom to those here assembled in convention
21 to plan its program, to fashion the ideals of her people,